

Sec. B.329 Disabilities, **aging**, and independent living - administration & support

Personal services	33,906,585	35,498,760
Operating expenses	<u>5,953,426</u>	<u>5,953,426</u>
Total	39,860,011	41,452,186
Source of funds		
General fund	17,731,954	19,174,129
Special funds	1,390,457	1,390,457
Federal funds	19,671,316	19,821,316
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>1,066,284</u>	<u>1,066,284</u>
Total	39,860,011	41,452,186

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, **aging**, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants

Grants	19,352,893	<u>19,921,075</u>
Total	19,352,893	19,921,075
Source of funds		
General fund	7,644,654	7,644,654
Federal funds	7,148,466	7,148,466
Global Commitment fund	4,559,773	<u>5,127,955</u>
Total	19,352,893	19,921,075

Sec. 25. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. B.334 is amended to read:

Sec. B.334 Disabilities, **aging**, and independent living - Brain injury home and community based waiver

Grants	5,564,689	<u>5,714,689</u>
Total	5,564,689	5,714,689
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	5,564,689	<u>5,714,689</u>
Total	5,564,689	5,714,689

Sec. B.334.1 Disabilities, aging and independent living - Long Term Care		
Grants	<u>230,505,916</u>	238,018,868
Total	<u>230,505,916</u>	238,018,868
Source of funds		
General fund	498,579	498,579
Federal funds	2,083,333	2,083,333
Global Commitment fund	<u>227,924,004</u>	<u>235,436,956</u>
Total	<u>230,505,916</u>	238,018,868

(A) On or before March 1, 2022, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on a plan to address costs associated with contract staffing for nursing homes. The plan shall include a methodology for addressing costs incurred for State fiscal year 2022, as well as a timeline for implementation. The plan shall include a timeline to address the rate setting process for future ongoing base costs starting in State fiscal year 2023.

(B) \$1,001,913 to replace the fund source in the appropriation in Sec. G.300(a)(26) (adult day services);

So this funding to adult days will be one-time general fund not ARPA.

(E) \$373,680 to replace the fund source in the appropriation in Sec. G.300(a)(29) (Vermont Veterans' Home).

Above is Vets Home related but not DAIL's budget.

(C) \$5,000,000 \$14,700,000 to provide free last dollar tuition for one year of undergraduate studies for critical occupation careers, including bookkeeping certificate, IT service desk specialist certificate, certified production technician, graphic design certificate, software and web development

program, electrical and plumbing apprenticeships, dental hygiene, certificate in accounting, small business management, radiologic science, and respiratory therapy. \$540,000 of these funds shall be allocated for paramedic/EMS programs and any unexpended amount of this allocation shall be available for the broader purpose in this subdivision (C). Funds may be used for practical nursing, childcare, nursing, and mental health counseling programs only after available federal and State financial aid is applied to ensure no cost to the student. Of this amount, \$7,350,000 shall be carried forward for the 2022–2023 school year. If demand from undergraduates is met, then funds may be used to pay for tuition for the following graduate programs:

- (i) Master in Education (all programs);
- (ii) Master in Educational Leadership;
- (iii) Master of Arts and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Psychology;
- (iv) Masters in Counseling; and
- (v) Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

(26) \$1,001,913 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to be granted to Adult Day service providers to maintain operations through June 30, 2022.

(29) \$373,680 to the Vermont Veteran’s Home for retention and personal protective equipment related expenses.

Again not above not in DAIL’s budget regarding Vet’s Home

(31) \$30,000,000 to the Agency of Human Services for a program to provide workforce recruitment and retention funding as specified in Sec. 72 of this act. These funds are combined with other funding provide in Sec. 72 for total \$60,000,000 retention payment program.

Sec. 72. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYERS

(a)(1) Program established. The Secretary of Human Services shall establish a workforce recruitment and retention incentive grant program for employees of eligible employers, as defined in this section. Eligible employers may apply for a grant within the grant application period determined by the Secretary.

(2) The total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of \$2,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application.

(3) In order to be eligible to receive a recruitment or retention incentive payment funded by a grant awarded pursuant to this section, an employee shall commit to continuing employment with the eligible employer for at least one calendar quarter following receipt of the payment.

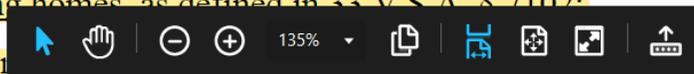
(4) Eligible employers shall distribute the full amount of their awards within 12 months following receipt of the grant funds.

(b) Definition. As used in this section, "eligible employers" means:

(1) assisted living residences, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102;

(2) nursing homes, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102;

(3) residen



(4) home health agencies, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 6302;

(5) designated and specialized service agencies, including shared living providers;

(6) substance use treatment providers in the Department of Health's preferred provider network;

(7) recovery centers;

(8) adult day service providers;

(9) area agencies on aging; and

(10) programs licensed by the Department for Children and Families as residential treatment programs.

(c) Independent direct support providers. For the purpose of administering recruitment and retention incentive payments to independent direct support

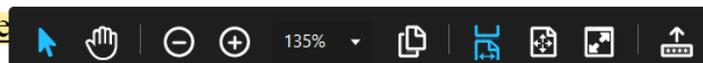
providers, ARIS Solutions, as the fiscal agent for the employers of independent direct support providers, is authorized to apply for a grant in the same manner as an eligible employer and to disburse incentive payments funded by the grant to eligible independent direct support providers in a manner consistent with ARIS Solutions' payroll practices, to the extent that making those awards is not inconsistent with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the Agency of Human Services and the independent direct support providers.

(d) Intent; flexibility; payment disregard.

(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the eligible employers awarded funds pursuant to this section shall use the funds to make recruitment and retention incentive payments to their employees and prospective employees. The employers shall be afforded flexibility in determining how best to provide these incentive payments and how best to encourage continued employment beyond the service commitment set forth in subdivision (a)(3) of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of Vermont law to the contrary and to the extent permitted under federal law, the amount of a recruitment or retention incentive payment received by an existing or prospective employee of an eligible employer under the program established in this section shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the employee's or employee's household's income eligibility for any benefit program.

(e) Available



(1) The sum of \$60,000,000 shall be made available to the Agency of

Human Services in fiscal year 2022 to fund the workforce recruitment and retention incentive grant program established in this act, from the following sources:

(A) \$25,000,000 as appropriated in Sec. 72a(a)(2) to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2022 from the Global Commitment Fund. The Agency shall amend the American Rescue Plan Act Home and Community-Based Services plan it submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services if needed to reflect this allocation.

(B) \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services in fiscal year 2022 from the General Fund. These funds may be included among the Global Commitment appropriations referenced in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.301.2 as available for transfers if it is determined that grants made under this provision can be included and matched in the Global Commitment waiver. These funds shall carry forward if not fully expended in fiscal year 2022.



(C) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to support the program from the funds allocated to the Agency of Human Services from the American Rescue

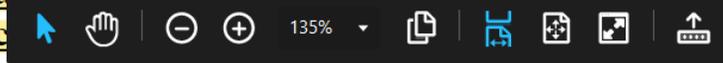
Plan Act of 2021 – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, as amended by Sec. 68 of this act.

(2) The Agency of Human Services may use up to 1.5 percent of funds allocated in subdivision (1) of this subsection to administer the program.

(f) Allocations. Of the funds made available in subsection (e) of this section, \$45,000,000 shall be allocated for a first round of funding, to be made available to the eligible employers identified in subsection (b) of this section. The remaining \$15,000,000 shall be reserved for a second round of funding pending identification of a set of additional health care and social service provider employers with a demonstrated need for the recruitment and retention incentive grant funding, as recommended by the Agency of Human Services and accepted by the General Assembly, or by the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, except that the Agency is authorized to access all or a portion of the reserved funding to the extent that a funding deficiency is identified when meeting the needs of the first round of eligible employers.

(g) Reporting requirements.

(1) On or before April 15, 2022, the Secretary of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding the status of implementation of the workforce recruitment and retention inc



(2) On or before July 1, 2022, the Secretary shall provide an update on the program to the Joint Fiscal Committee, including the amount of funding distributed to date, the amount of funding remaining for distribution, and any anticipated funding deficiency for the first round of grants based on the remaining need.

Sec. 72a. MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) PLAN

(a) Pursuant to Sec. 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in October 2021, the State submitted a home- and community-based services (HCBS) spending plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This plan currently totals \$146,600,000, consisting of the following major components:

(1) \$77,800,000 allocated to improve services;

(2) \$25,000,000 allocated to promote a high-performing and stable HCBS workforce; and

(3) \$43,800,000 allocated to improve HCBS care through data systems, value-based payment models, and oversight.

(c) In fiscal year 2022, a total of \$59,457,740 is appropriated from the Global Commitment Fund to AHS to meet the objectives of the HCBS plan. This appropriation consists of \$17,136,654 as appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74 for a three percent rate increase to HCBS providers, including the assistive community care rates and children integrated services rates, and the following appropriations in distinct one-time departmental IDs:

(1) \$25,000,000 is appropriated for the retention and recruitment grant program for HCBS providers as specified in Sec. 72 of this act.

(2) \$3,447,500 is appropriated to the Agency of Human Services – Secretary’s Office.

(3) \$2,370,000 is appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(4) \$6,171,000 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health.

(5) \$390,000 is appropriated to the Department of Vermont Health Access.

(6) \$4,942,586 is appropriated to the Department of Health.

Sec. 7. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

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(d) Specific allocations. Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, of the funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section, the Agency of Human Services shall make the following allocations for the following purposes:

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(3) Up to \$3,000,000.00 for COVID-19-related expenses incurred by designated and specialized service agencies through ~~December 30, 2020~~ December 31, 2021.

Sec. 74. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM; ALTERNATIVE FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Notwithstanding any provision of 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 136, Sec. 7, as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. B.1121, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 50, and this act to the contrary, the Agency of Human Services may distribute funds from the Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program to eligible health care providers using an alternative process to that set forth in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 136, Sec. 7, as amended, as deemed necessary by the Agency due to emergent and exigent circumstances attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.